

Applicant : Imad Mahawili, PhD
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REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's review of the specification, claims, and drawings and indication of allowable subject matter. The amendments presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed. No new matter has been entered. In light of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and a Notice of Allowance of all claims.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12-15, 17-21, 23-31, 55, 56, 58, 62, 63, and 78-86 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 16, 32, 57, 59-61, and 64-77 were previously cancelled. Claims 2, 22, and 33-54 are cancelled herein. Claims 33-54 are cancelled as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 58, 62, 63, and 78-86 are allowed. Claims 3, 8, 20, 21, 30, 55, and 56 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 3, 8, 20, and 30 to be in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 3, 8, 20, 21, 30, 55, and 56 and their respective dependent claims, namely Claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 12-15, 17-19, 23-29, and 31 are now in condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,948,168 to Shan et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses. However, to expedite issuance of the present application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 2 and 22 and amended Claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 17, 23, and 24 to depend from an allowable claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, and 23-25 are now in allowable form.

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The Examiner rejects Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 11-15, 17-19, 22-29, and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,916,455 to Kumagai.

Applicant respectfully traverses. However, to expedite issuance of the present application, Applicant has cancelled Claims 2 and 22 and amended Claims 5, 6, 9, 11, 15, 17, 23, and 24 to depend upon an allowable claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 5, 6, 9, 11-15, 17-19, 23-29, and 31 are now in allowable form.

Applicant respectfully notes that Claim 31 is dependent upon an allowable claim, namely Claim 30, which is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 31 is similarly allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

The Examiner rejects Claims 13, 14, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,263,831 to Gorin.

Claims 13, 14, and 19 now ultimately depend from allowable Claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 13, 14, and 19 are now in allowable form.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit a Notice to that affect.

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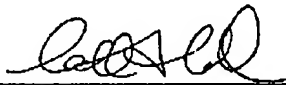
Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is invited
to contact the undersigned at (616) 975-5506.

Respectfully submitted,

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